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on high land, not near the water, and a mile from the first. On a third visit to the marsh, late on a cool afternoon, I found still another specimen, though not very near the first.

All the trees seem to be the common red oak (*Quercus rubra*); those in the marsh are not more than ten or twelve feet high, and are bushes in shape, with branches to the ground. The upland specimen is a tree twenty-five to thirty feet high. None of the oak-trees about them has any odor whatever, and, while the latter seem to be comparatively free from the attacks of insects, the former are so eaten that it is difficult to find perfect leaves. The only exceptions to this are the young red leaves at the ends of the branches; they are all perfect and have no odor until dried for twenty-four hours, when they develop it as strongly as the mature green leaves. All lose their odor when pressed, but retain it for a week or more when simply dried. The leaves of the upland tree were sweet when last seen, September 22nd. The others were probably so too, but I did not see them. I have examined all the oak-trees I have met with since finding the above, but have discovered no more sweet ones. If one is not attracted by the strong arbutus perfume when passing near the tree, it seems to be useless to examine it further.

These trees appear to reverse the rule with sweet-leaved plants, which generally have to be crushed or dried to develop their full fragrance. For instance, one can walk through a plantation of bayberry and hardly perceive any odor, though when crushed or dried the leaves are very sweet and finally acquire the exact smell of tea. These oak-leaves, on the contrary, attract the attention of the passer-by, are not improved by crushing, and, with the exception of the young leaves mentioned, do not gain more fragrance in drying.

Boston, Oct. 22nd, 1884.

BELL F. HAPGOOD.

**Subularia aquatica.**—In September, 1882, I found one specimen of this rare little plant on the gravelly margin of Echo Lake, Franconia, and quite out of water. I made a note of it in the BULLETIN for March '83. I afterwards received several letters from botanists in regard to the plant, and was told that no record had been printed of its being found at Echo Lake since Tuckerman's discovery in 1844. In September '83 I again visited the station, and was so fortunate as to find several specimens in the same locality, all out of water and quite small. My information concerning the plant was derived from Gray's Manual, which gives its habitat "margin of lakes." I did not therefore search for it under water, and other botanists who visited the place made the same mistake. But this year I, with others, have made further investigations, with satisfactory results. It is found in great quantities on the gravelly bottom of the lake, in from one to four feet of water, and probably at a greater depth. In this situation it is much more luxuriant, sometimes fully 9 inches in height, and grows in thick, close mats, twenty to thirty feet in extent. On consulting Tuckerman's original article (*Silliman's Journal*, 2d series, vi., 1848) I find that he there speaks of the *Subularia* as submersed, "growing abundantly in about a foot of water." In Gray's Genera, 1848, it is described as "growing on the

gravelly margins of lakes and pools where it is ordinarily covered with water. Gray's Manual gives June and July as its flowering season, but I have never seen it even in bud before August, and I do not think it is in pod (and therefore in the best state for examination and identification) before September.

ANNIE TRUMBULL SLOSSON.

**Immediate Influence of Crossing or Hybridizing on Fruits and Seeds.**—Much writing, though few experiments, has been offered lately on this subject. Anxious to go, myself, over experiments recorded in the early part of the century in relation to sterility in hybrid *Verbascums*, I crossed *Verbascum Blattaria* with *V. Thapsus* the past summer. I need not go over the precautions taken to prevent the use of self pollen—every one of experience knows how to make these precautions absolutely certain in their results. Again, I may note that the seeds of these two species are very distinct as seen under a lens. *Thapsus* has gray seeds, which taper as if they were the ends of corn-cobs—those of *Blattaria* are dark brown, and in form as if they came from the middle portion of an ear of corn. The hybrid seed-vessel and the hybrid seeds were exactly those of its female parent, *V. Blattaria*. I have plants growing, and shall have to wait another year to know if they are sterile, but that is another question. But as we know that there is an immediate effect on the seed in crossing in Indian corn, the *Verbascum* experiment simply shows one more case where there is none.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

**Teratological.**—I have seen, this year, a common cooking-bean with three cotyledons; also, within a few days, a horsechestnut bur containing three perfect seeds.

W. W. BAILEY.

**Rudbeckia.**—I see by Dr. Gray's Synopsis, just received, that what I figured as *Rudbeckia fulgida* in my Flowers and Ferns he regards as *R. speciosa*. What I have said about *R. fulgida* in my note on page 94 of the BULLETIN refers to his *speciosa*.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

**Synspermy in the Horsechestnut.**—After sending a note lately upon a three-seeded horsechestnut, I found those with two seeds so common as to be unworthy of mention. So perhaps is the case I cited. Now, however, I can record a greater rarity, viz., a complete union of two seeds into one, the attachment being at the hilum. As I wish to preserve the specimen, I have not dis severed the parts to ascertain whether the union is by more than the integuments, but it looks as if it were. Under *Synspermy*, Dr. M. T. Masters, in a footnote, gives the case of *Æsculus Hippocastanum*, but considers the phenomenon unusual.

Providence, R. I.

W. W. BAILEY.

**Note on the May-Apple.**—Prof. T. C. Porter kindly sends me a copy of the *Botanical Gazette*, 1877, No. 9, describing essentially the